

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of :  
Fumio KONDO et al. :  
Serial No. NEW : **Attn: APPLICATION BRANCH**  
Filed February 27, 2004 : Attorney Docket No. 2004-0260

SUBSTRATE PROCESSING METHOD  
**(Rule 1.53(b) Continuation  
of Serial No. 10/182,835,  
Filed October 11, 2002)**

THE COMMISSIONER IS AUTHORIZED  
TO CHARGE ANY DEFICIENCY IN THE  
FEES FOR THIS PAPER TO DEPOSIT  
ACCOUNT NO. 23-0975

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**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Prior to examination of the above-referenced U.S. patent application please amend the application as follows: